Sept. 6 1791. Published according to Act of Parliament for J. Bell.
B. Reeving S.

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TEN
Minutes Advice
TO EVERY
GENTLEMAN
Going to purchaſe a
HORSE
OUT OF A
DEALER, JOCKEY,
OR,
GROOM's STABLES.

In which are laid down eſtabliſhed Rules for diſcovering the Perfections and Blemiſhes of that noble Animal.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

PREFACE.

THE following ſhort treatiſe was compiled with intent to guard the unwary from deceptions in the purchaſe, as well as to refreſh the memory of gentlemen better acquainted with the requiſite qualifications of that noble animal the Horſe.

The remarks are drawn from long, and, in ſome inſtances, dear-bought experience, in the ſnares which jockies and grooms in general lay before thoſe who are under the neceſſity of dealing with them.

The author therefore preſumes to hope, that the attempt is praiſe-worthy, and if in

any inſtance he is found miſtaken, the favour of any further hint, for the improvement of a future edition, addreſſed to the publiſhers, will be moſt thankfully received, and properly attended to.

Having premiſed thus much, it may not be thought improper, by way of introduction, to obſerve,

That a large ſhin bone, that is, long from the knee to the paſtern, in a foal, ſhews a tall horſe.

Double the ſpace in a foal, new foaled, betwixt his knee and withers, will, in general, be the height of him when a complete horſe.

Foals that are of ſtirring ſpirits, wanton of diſpoſition, active in leaping, running and chaſing, ever leading the way, and ſtriving for maſtery, always prove horſes of excellent

excellent mettle; and those of the contrary disposition, most commonly jades.

Before I enter on my particular observations, it may not be unnecessary to give one general rule, which experience has proved to me a good one, that is,

NO FOOT, NO HORSE.

A horse's ability, and continuance in goodness, is known by his hoofs.

If they are strong, smooth, hard, deep, tough, upright, and hollow, that horse cannot be a very bad one; for they are the foundation of his building, and give a fortitude to all the rest; and if otherwise, he cannot be remarkably good or lasting.

Without further preface, I shall therefore proceed to the following particular remarks and observations.

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Ten Minutes Advice, &c.

NOthing more true than the common obſervation, that in the art of horſemanſhip, the moſt difficult part is that of giving proper directions for the purchaſing a horſe free from fault and blemiſh. The deceptions in this branch of traffic being looked on in a leſs fraudulent light than they ſeem to deſerve, and of conſequence are more frequently practiſed, it ſhall therefore be my buſineſs, in the following brief remarks, to ſhew, in the beſt manner I am able, the imperfections which, from either nature or miſchance, every horſe is liable to.

IN THE STABLE.

SEE the horſe you are about to purchaſe in the ſtable, without any perſon being in the ſtall with him, and if he has any complaint in his legs he will ſoon ſhew it, by altering the ſituation of them, taking up one and ſetting down the other;

and this denotes his being foundered or over-worked.

ON ordering him out, let no one be the laſt in the ſtable but yourſelf; you ſhould alſo, if poſſible, be the firſt in, leſt the owner, or ſome of his quick emiſſaries, take an opportunity to fig him; a practice common among dealers, in order to make the tail ſhew as if carried very high, when, in reality, the day after he will, in appearance, be five pounds worſe.

THE EYES.

THIS is the proper time to examine his eyes, which may be done in a dark ſtable, with a candle, or rather in the day time when he is led from the ſtall; cauſe the man who leads him to ſtop at the ſtable door juſt as his head peeps out, and all his body is ſtill within. If the white of the eye appears reddiſh at the bottom, or of a colour like a withered leaf, I would not adviſe you to purchaſe him. A moon-eyed horſe is known by his weeping, and keeping his eyes almoſt ſhut at the beginning of the diſtemper: as the moon changes, he gradually recovers his ſight, and in a fortnight or three weeks ſees as well as before he had the diſorder. Dealers, when they have ſuch a horſe to ſell, at the time of his weeping always tell you that he has got a bit of ſtraw or hay in his eye, or that he has received

ſome

ſome blow: they alſo take care to wipe away the humour to prevent its being ſeen; but a man ſhould truſt only himſelf in buying of horſes, and above all, be very exact in examining the eyes. In this he muſt have regard to time and place where he makes the examination. Bad eyes may appear good in winter, when ſnow is upon the ground; and often good ones appear bad, according to the poſition of the horſe. Never examine a horſe's eyes by the ſide of a white wall, where the dealers always chooſe to ſhew one that is moon-eyed.

THE moon-eyed horſe has always one eye bigger than the other, and above his lids you may generally diſcover wrinkles or circles.

IF you obſerve a fleſhy excreſcence that proceeds from the corner of the eye, and covers a part of the pupil, and is in ſhape almoſt like the beard of an oyſter, though ſeemingly a matter of no great conſequence, yet it is what I call a whitlow in the eye, and if ſuffered to grow, it draws away a part of the nouriſhment of the eye, and ſometimes occaſions a total privation of ſight: on the contrary, if the eyes are round, big, black and ſhining; if the black of the eye fill the pit, or outward circumference, ſo that in moving very little of the white appeareth, they are ſigns of goodneſs and mettle. The eye which in gene-

ral

ral is eſteemed the beſt, is that which is neither ſmall nor large, but be ſure to obſerve that the chryſtalline be thoroughly tranſparent, for without that, no kind of eye can be ſaid to be good.

COUNTENANCE.

AFTER having carefully ſatisfied yourſelf as to his eyes, let him be brought out, and have him ſtand naked before you; then take a ſtrict view of his countenance, particularly with regard to the chearfulneſs of it, this being an excellent glaſs to obſerve his goodneſs and beſt perfections. Be careful you are not deceived by the marks in his face, as frequently a good-looking ſtar is made of cat's ſkin. If his ears be ſmall, ſharp, ſhort, pricked, and moving: or if they are long, but yet well ſet on, and well carried, it is a mark of goodneſs; if they are thick, laved, or lolling, wide ſet, and unmoving, they are ſigns of dulneſs, and of an evil nature.

A LEAN forehead, ſwelling outward, the mark or feather in his face ſet high, with a white ſtar or ratch of an indifferent ſize, and even placed, or a white ſnip on the noſe or lip, they are all marks of beauty and goodneſs; on the contrary, a fat, cloudy, or frowning countenance, the mark in his face ſtanding low, as under his eyes, if his ſtar or ratch ſtand awry, and inſtead of a ſnip his noſe be raw and unhairy, or

or his face generally bald, they are signs of deformity.

STRANGLES.

HANDLE his cheeks, or chaps, and if you find the bones laen and thin, the space wide between them, the thropple or windpipe big as you can gripe, and the void place without knots or kernels, and the jaws so great that the neck seemeth to couch within them, they are all signs of great wind, courage, soundness of head and body; on the contrary, if the chaps are fat and thick, the space between them closed up with gross substance, and the thropple little, they are signs of short wind and much inward foulness: should the void place be full of knots and kernels, beware of the strangles or glanders, the former of which may be easily discovered by a swelling between the two nether jawbones, which discharges a white matter. This disorder usually appears about three, four, or five years old; there is no young horse but what is subject to it either perfectly or imperfectly; there is also a disorder which is called the Bastard Strangles, which appears sometimes like, and sometimes different from the true strangles. The bastard strangles are what proves the horse has not thrown off his true strangles, but that some foul humours are still left behind; this disorder may come at four, five, six, or even seven years of age. A

continual languor at work, and ſeemingly perpetually weary, without any viſible ailment, is a certain ſign that he is not clear of this diſorder, which ſometimes will affect the foot, the leg, the ham, the haunch, the ſhoulder, the breaſt, or the eye, and without care in this latter caſe, may corrupt the pupil of the eye, as the ſmall-pox does in men.

MORFOUNDERING.

THERE is alſo another diſorder, much like the ſtrangles, which is called Morfoundering, and appears by a running at the noſe, but the ſwelling under the jaws is leſs.

GLANDERS.

THE glanders are diſcovered by a running at the noſe, either on the one ſide or the other: feel if he has any flat glands faſtened to the nether jaw, which give him pain when you preſs them; and remember that a running at one noſtril is worſe than at both.

VIVES.

WHEN the jaws are ſtrait, that the neck ſwelleth above them, it is a ſign of ſhort wind; but if the ſwelling be long, and cloſe by his chaps, like a whetſtone, then be ſure he has the vives, which is a diſtemper moſt frequent in high mountainous countries, eſpecially to horſes that are not uſed to the

the crudities produced in the ſtomach by the ſpring and fountain waters that riſe in hilly grounds: ſtanding waters, or thoſe of very little current, are the leaſt dangerous, and ſeldom cauſe the vives, but very deep wells are bad.

NOSTRILS.

If his noſtrils be open, dry, wide, and large, ſo as upon any ſtraining the inward redneſs is diſcovered; if his muzzle be ſmall, his mouth deep, and his lips equally meeting, they are ſigns of health and wind: but ſhould his noſtrils be ſtrait, his wind is then little. Should you find the muzzle to be groſs, his ſpirit will be dull.

If his mouth be ſhallow, he will never carry the bit well, and if his upper will not reach his under lip, old age and infirmity mark him for carrion.

AGE.

Respecting the age of a horſe that is fit for work, he ſhould have forty teeth: twenty-four grinders, which teach us nothing, and ſixteen others, which have their names, and diſcover his age. As mares uſually have no tuſks, their teeth are only thirty-ſix. A colt is foaled without teeth: in a few days he puts out four, which are called pincers, or nippers; ſoon after appear the four ſeparators: next to the pincers, it is ſometimes

times three or four months before the next, called corner teeth, puſh forth. Theſe twelve colt's teeth, in the front of the mouth, continue, without alteration, till the colt is two years, or two years and a half old, which makes it difficult, without great care, to avoid being impoſed on during that interval, if the ſeller finds it his intereſt to make the colt paſs for either younger or older than he really is: the only rule you have then to judge by is his coat, and the hairs of his mane and tail. A colt of one year has a ſupple, rough coat, reſembling that of a water ſpaniel, and the hair of his mane and tail feels like flax, and hangs like a rope untwiſted; whereas a colt of two years has a flat coat, and ſtreight hairs, like a grown horſe.

AT about two years and a half old, ſometimes ſooner, ſometimes later, according as he has been fed, a horſe begins to change his teeth. The pincers, which come the firſt, are alſo the firſt that fall; ſo that at three years he has four horſe's, and eight colt's teeth, which are eaſily known apart, the former being larger, flatter, and yellower than the other, and ſtreaked from the end quite into the gums.

THESE four horſe pincers have, in the middle of their extremities, a black hole, very deep; whereas thoſe of the colt are round and white.

When

When the horſe is coming four years old, he loſes his four ſeparators, or middle teeth, and puts forth four others, which follow the ſame rule as the pincers. He has now eight horſe's teeth, and four colt's. At five years old he ſheds the four corner, which are his laſt colt's teeth, and is called a horſe.

DURING this year alſo, his four tuſks (which are chiefly peculiar to horſes) come behind the others; the lower ones often four months before the upper; but whatever may be vulgarly thought, a horſe that has the two lower tuſks, if he has not the upper, may be judged to be under five years old, unleſs the other teeth ſhew the contrary; for ſome horſes that live to be very old never have any upper tuſks at all. The two lower tuſks are one of the moſt certain rules that a horſe is coming five years old, notwithſtanding his colt's teeth may not be all gone.

JOCKIES and breeders, in order to make their colts ſeem five years old when they are but four, pull out their laſt colt's teeth; but if all the colt's teeth are gone, and no tuſks appear, you may be certain this trick has been played: another artifice they uſe, is to beat the bars every day with a wooden mallet, in the place where the tuſks are to appear, in order to make them ſeem hard, as if the tuſks were juſt ready to cut.

WHEN a horſe is coming ſix years old, the two lower pincers fill up, and inſtead of the holes above-mentioned, ſhew only a black ſpot. Betwixt ſix and ſeven the two middle teeth fill up in the ſame manner; and between ſeven and eight the corner teeth do the like; after which it is ſaid to be impoſſible to know certainly the age of a horſe, he having no longer any mark in the mouth.

YOU can indeed only have recourſe to the tuſks, and the ſituation of the teeth, of which I ſhall now ſpeak.

FOR the tuſks you muſt with your finger feel the inſide of them from the point quite to the gum. If the tuſk be pointed flat, and has two little channels within ſide, you may be certain the horſe is not old, and at the utmoſt only coming ten. Between eleven and twelve the two channels are reduced to one, which after twelve is quite gone, and the tuſks are as round within as they are without; you have no guide then but the ſituation of the teeth. The longeſt teeth are not always a ſign of the greateſt age, but their hanging over and puſhing forward, as their meeting perpendicularly, is a certain token of youth.

MANY perſons, whilſt they ſee certain little holes in the middle of the teeth, imagine, that ſuch

ſuch horſes are but in their ſeventh year, without regard to the ſituation the teeth take as they grow old.

WHEN horſes are young, their teeth meet perpendicularly, but grow longer, and puſh forward with age; beſides the mouth of a young horſe is very fleſhy within in the palate, and his lips are firm and hard: on the contrary, the inſide of an old horſe's mouth is lean both above and below, and ſeems to have only the ſkin upon the bones. The lips are ſoft and eaſy to turn up with the hand.

ALL horſes are marked in the ſame manner, but ſome naturally, and others artificially. The natural mark is called Begue, and ſome ignorant perſons imagine ſuch horſes are marked all their lives, becauſe for many years they find a little hole, or a kind of void in the middle of the ſeparators and corner teeth; but when the tuſks are grown round, as well within as without, and the teeth point forward, there is room to conjecture in proportion as they advance from year to year, what the horſe's age may be, without regarding the cavity above-mentioned.

THE artificial manner is made uſe of by dealers and jockies, who mark their horſes, after the age of being known, to make them appear only ſix or

ſeven years old. They do it in this manner: they throw down the horſe to have him more at command, and, with a ſteel graver, like what is uſed for ivory, hollow the middle teeth a little, and the corner ones ſomewhat more; then fill the holes with a little roſin, pitch, ſulphur, or ſome grains of wheat, which they burn in with a bit of hot wire, made in proportion to the hole. This operation they repeat from time to time, till they give the hole a laſting black, in imitation of nature; but in ſpite of all they can do, the hot iron makes a little yellowiſh circle round theſe holes, like what it would leave upon ivory: they have therefore another trick to prevent detection, which is to make the horſe foam from time to time, after having rubbed his mouth, lips, and gums with ſalt, and the crumb of bread dried and powdered with ſalt. This foam hides the circle made by the iron.

ANOTHER thing they cannot do, is, to counterfeit young tuſks, it being out of their power to make thoſe two crannies above-mentioned, which are given by nature: with files they may make them ſharper or flatter, but then they take away the ſhining natural enamel, ſo that one may always know, by theſe tuſks, horſes that are paſt ſeven, till they come to twelve or thirteen. As the defects of the mouth may deſtroy a horſe with-

out any diſtemper, I ſhall here juſt deſcribe the barbs, the lampas, giggs upon the lips, and gagg-teeth.

BARBS.

FOR the barbs, look under his tongue, and ſee if he has not two fleſhy excreſcences on the under palate, like little bladders. It ſeems to be a meer trifle, but theſe, however, will hinder a horſe from drinking as uſual; and if he does not drink freely, he eats the leſs, and languiſhes from day to day, perhaps, without any one's taking notice of it.

LAMPAS.

THE lampas is known by opening the horſe's mouth, and looking at his upper palate, to ſee if the fleſh comes down below the inner teeth: this gives him pain in eating his oats, and even his hay, when it is too harſh; though he can very well manage bran, graſs, or kind hay.

GIGGS UPON THE LIPS.

WHEN you have looked in the horſe's mouth without finding either of the two diſorders above, turn up his lips, both upper and under, and perhaps you may find ſeveral ſmall elevations, like little white bliſters, which make the inſide of the lips uneven. This defect may be felt with the finger, and is what hinders horſes from eating as

uſual; and this is what is called giggs upon the lips.

GAGG-TEETH.

GAGG-TEETH is a defect that rarely happens to young horſes, and is to be diſcovered by puting the colt's foot into the mouth, and looking at the large grinders, which in this caſe appear unequal, and in eating catch hold of the inſide of the cheeks, cauſing great pain, and making them refuſe their food.

HIS BREAST.

FROM his head look down to his breaſt, and ſee that it be broad, out-ſwelling, and adorned with many features, for this ſhews ſtrength: the little, or ſmall breaſt ſhews weakneſs, as the narrow one is apt to ſtumble.

The ANTICOR, or ANTICOW.

PUT your hand betwixt his fore legs, and feel if he has a ſwelling there from the ſheath quite up between the fore legs; ſuch a ſwelling is called the anticor, or anticow, and is mortal to horſes, if they are not ſoon relieved. It proceeds from different cauſes, viz. the remains of an old diſtemper which was never perfectly cured, or after which the horſe was too ſoon put to labour, from too much heat, contracted in the ſtable, by being kept up a long time without airing, or from having

having loſt too large a quantity of blood in what part ſoever the vein was opened. When you touch a ſwelling of this kind, the impreſſions of the fingers remain for ſome time, as if you had made them in a bit of puff paſte, filling up again by degrees, as the paſte would riſe. This ſwelling contains bloody water, that inſinuates between the fleſh and the ſkin, and proves that all the blood in the veins is corrupted.

His THIGHS and LEGS.

FROM thence look down his elbow to his knee, and ſee that the fore thighs be ruſh grown, well horned within, ſinewed, fleſhy, and outſwelling, thoſe being ſigns of ſtrength, as the contrary are of weakneſs. If his knees bear a proportion to each other, be lean, ſinewy, and cloſe knit, they are good; but if one is bigger or rounder than the other, the horſe has received miſchief; if they are groſs, he is gouty, and if he has ſcars, or the hair be broken, beware of a ſtumbling jade, and perpetual faller.

SPLENTS.

FROM his knees look down his legs to his paſterns, and if you find them clean, lean, flat, ſinewy, and the inward bought of his knee without ſeams, or hair broken, it ſhews a good ſhape and ſoundneſs; but if on the inſide of the leg you find hard knots, they are ſplents, of which there

are

are three ſorts. The ſimple ſplent, which appears within the leg under the knee, remote from the great nerve and the joint of the knee, ought not to hinder a man from buying a good horſe, for it gives him no pain, is only diſagreeable to the ſight, and goes away in time of itſelf. All the three ſorts of ſplents are known by the ſame rule; for whenever you ſee a tumour upon the flat of the leg, whether within or without, if it be under the knee, and appears hard to the touch, it is a ſplent; and when it is ſituated as above deſcribed, it ſignifies nothing; but when it comes upon the joint of the knee, without any interval, it loſes the name of ſplent, and may be called a fuſee; it then, as one may eaſily conceive, makes the leg of a horſe ſtiff, and hinders him from bending his knee; conſequently it obliges him to ſtumble, and even fall, and after a violent exerciſe makes him lame. Reſt alone cures the lameneſs, but not the fuſee.

The third kind of ſplent, whether within or without, is when you feel it between the nerve and the bone, and ſometimes even at the end of the nerve; this is called a nervous ſplent, and is the worſt of all the kinds; beſides that, the horſe is never here ſo firm footed, but that he limps at every little degree of labour. The French reject every horſe that has a ſplent, very often without knowing how to diſtinguiſh them; and one that has

has only a ſingle ſplent, is as bad in their eyes as one that has the other ſort: but a ſimple ſplent always goes away of itſelf by the time a horſe is eight or nine years old.

OSSELETS.

THERE are alſo three kinds of oſſelets, which are of the ſame nature as ſplents, and ſome perſons take them for the ſame thing; but there is this difference however between them, that ſplents come near the knees, and oſſelets near the fetlocks. Their ſeat is indifferently within, or without the leg.

THE firſt is the ſimple oſſelet, which does not grow near the joint of the fetlock or the nerve.

THIS need not hinder any man from buying a horſe, becauſe it puts him to no inconvenience, and very often goes away of itſelf without a remedy. The ſecond is that which deſcends into the fetlock, and hinders the motion of that joint: this occaſions a horſe to ſtumble and fall, and with a very little work to become lame. The third has its ſeat between the bone and the nerve, and ſometimes upon the nerve; it ſo much incommodes a horſe, that he cannot ſtand firm, but limps on every little occaſion.

WIND-

WINDGALLS.

THERE are alſo three kinds of windgalls, which appear to the eye much like oſſelets, but are not, however, juſt in the ſame places; nor do they feel like them, for oſſelets are hard, but windgalls give way to the touch. Some horſes are more liable to theſe than others, and that for ſeveral reaſons. Some proceed from old worn-out ſires, and others by being worked too young. A ſimple windgall is a little tumour, between the ſkin and the fleſh, round the fetlocks; when it appears at a good diſtance from the large nerve, it does not lame the horſe; and if he has but age on his ſide, that is, be under ten years old, at moſt, he will be as uſeful as before, provided the work you put him to be not of the moſt laborious kind; however a horſe is much better without, than with even this ſort of ſimple windgall, which conſiſts of thin ſkins, full of red liquid, and ſoft to the touch. The nervous windgall anſwers the ſame deſcription, only, as the ſimple ones come upon the fetlock, or a little above it, upon the leg bone, in the very place of oſſelets, nervous ones come behind the fetlock, upon the great nerve, which makes them of worſe conſequence, for they never fail to lame a horſe after much fatigue. Theſe windgalls may happen upon any of the legs, but ſome of them are more dangerous than others, in proportion as they preſs the nerve,

nerve, and are capable of laming the horſe; and take notice, by the way, that windgalls are more troubleſome in ſummer than in winter, eſpecially in very hot weather, when the pores are all open. The third ſort is the bloated windgall, and is of the worſt ſort when they come over the hind part of the fetlock, between the bone and the large nerve, and make the horſe ſo lame, at every little thing he does, that he can ſcarce ſet his foot on the ground: they appear on both ſides the leg, without as well as within; and when you touch them with your hand, or finger, they feel like a pig's or cow's bladder full of wind. If under his knees there are ſcabs on the inſide, it is the ſpeedy or ſwift cut, and in that caſe he will but ill endure galloping; if above the paſterns, on the inſide, you find ſcabs, it ſhews interfering; but if the ſcabs be generally over his legs, it is either occaſioned by foul keeping, or a ſpice of the mange.

PASTERN.

TAKE care that the paſtern joint be clear and well knit together, and that the paſtern be ſtrong, ſhort, and upright; for if the firſt be big, or ſwelled, beware of ſinew ſtrains; if the other be long, weak, or bending, the limbs will be hardly able to carry the body without tiring.

HOOFS.

HOOFS.

THE hoofs ſhould be black, ſmooth, and tough, rather long than round, deep, hollow, and full-ſounding; for white hoofs are tender, and carry a ſhoe ill, and a brittle hoof will carry no ſhoe at all: a flat hoof, that is pumiced, ſhews foundering; and a hoof that is empty, and hollow-ſounding, ſhews a decayed inward part, by reaſon of ſome wound or dry founder. If the hair lye ſmooth and cloſe about the crown of the hoof, and the fleſh flat and even, then all is perfect; but ſhould the hair be there rough, the ſkin ſcabbed, and the fleſh riſing, you may then be apprehenſive of a ring bone, a crown ſcab, or a quitter bone.

CIRCLED FEET.

CIRCLED feet are very eaſy to be known: they are, when you ſee little excreſcence round the hoof, which encloſe the foot, and appear like ſo many ſmall circles. Dealers, who have ſuch horſes, never fail to raſp round their hoofs, in order to make them ſmooth; and to conceal the raſping, when they are to ſhew them for ſale, they black the hoofs all over; for without that, one may eaſily perceive what has been done, and ſeeing the mark of the raſp, is a proof that the horſe is ſubject to this accident. As to the cauſes, it proceeds from the remains of an old diſtemper,

diſtemper, or from having been foundered; and the diſeaſe being cured, without care being taken of the feet, whereupon the circulation of the blood not being regularly made, eſpecially round the crown, between the hair and the horn, the part loſes its nouriſhment, and contracts or enlarges itſelf in proportion as the horſe is worked. If theſe circles were only on the ſurface, the jockies' method of raſping them down would then be good for nothing; but they form themſelves alſo within the feet, as well as without, and conſequently preſs on the ſenſible part, and make a horſe limp with ever ſo little labour. One may juſtly compare a horſe in this ſituation, to a man that has corns on his feet, and yet is obliged to walk a long way in ſhoes that are too tight and ſtubborn: a horſe therefore is worth a great deal leſs on this account.

BOW LEGGED.

AFTER having well examined the feet, ſtand about three paces from his ſhoulders, and look carefully that he is not bow legged, which proceeds from two different cauſes; firſt, from nature, when a horſe has been got by a worn-out ſtallion; and ſecondly, from his having been worked too young; neither in the one caſe nor the other is the horſe of any value, becauſe he never can be ſure-footed; it is alſo a diſagreeable

ſight if the knees point forwards, and his legs turn in under him, ſo that the knees come much further out than the feet; it is what is called a bow-legged horſe, and ſuch a one ought to be rejected for any ſervice whatſoever, as he never can ſtand firm on his legs; and how handſome ſoever he may otherways be, he ſhould on no account be uſed for a ſtallion, becauſe all his progeny will have the ſame deformity.

HEAD.

THEN ſtand by his ſide, and take particular notice that his head be well ſet on; for if thick ſet, be aſſured it will cauſe him to toſs up his noſe for want of wind, which cauſes a horſe to carry his head diſagreeably high, and occaſions a tickliſh mouth.

NECK.

HIS neck ſhould be ſmall at the ſetting on of his head, and long, growing deeper to the ſhoulders, with a high, ſtrong, and thin mane, long, ſoft, and ſomewhat curling; thoſe being beautiful characters; on the contrary, a head ill ſet on is a great deformity.

POLE-EVIL.

TO have a large bigneſs or ſwelling in the nape of the neck, ſhews the pole-evil. To have a ſhort thick

thick neck, like a bull, to have it falling in the withers, to have a low, weak, thick, or falling creſt, ſhews want of ſtrength and mettle.

THE MANE.

MUCH hair on the mane ſhews dulneſs, as too thin a mane ſhews fury; and to have none, or ſhed, ſhews the worm in it, the itch, or mangineſs.

THE SHOULDERS.

IN ſhewing a horſe, a dealer or jockey will generally place him with his fore feet on a higher ground than his hind ones, in order that the ſhoulder may appear further in his back, and make him higher in ſight than he really is; but be ſure to cauſe him to be led on level ground, and ſee that his ſhoulders lie well into his back; for an upright ſhouldered horſe carries his weight too forward, which is diſagreeable, and unſafe to the rider. Have his fore legs ſtand even, and you will then have it in your power to judge of his ſhoulders. If you do not obſerve this, the dealer will contrive that his near leg ſtands before the other, as the ſhoulders, in that poſition, appear to lay further in the back. If his knees ſtand nearly cloſe, and his toes quite in a line, not turning in, nor yet turning out, be aſſured he will not cut: if he takes his legs up a moderate height, and neither clambers, nor yet

goes too near the ground, he will moſt likely anſwer your purpoſe.

BACK, BODY, &c.

OBSERVE that the chine of his back be broad, even, and ſtraight, his ribs well compaſſed, and bending outward, his fillets upright, ſtrong, ſhort, and above an handful between his laſt rib and his huckle bone; his belly ſhould be well let down, yet hidden within his ribs, and his ſtones cloſe thruſt up to his body, thoſe being marks of health and goodneſs. Be careful in obſerving that he has no ſwelling in his teſticles, a diſorder that uſually proceeds either from ſome ſtrain in working, or from the horſe's having continued too long in the ſtable, or from his putting one leg over any bar, and being checked by the halter, or, in a word, from any other accident that confines a horſe, makes him kick or fling, and bruiſe his cods, and there is no other way of knowing this diſtemper, but by ſome outward ſwelling upon the part.

THE coming down of the teſticles proceeds from the ſame cauſes, with this difference only, that it is a long time of diſcovering itſelf; whereas the other may come in one night. If his chine be narrow, he will never carry a ſaddle well; and to have it bending, or ſaddle backed, ſhews weakneſs. If his ribs be flat, there is but ſmall liberty for wind. Should his fillets hang low, or weak,

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he will never climb a hill, or carry a burden well. A belly that is clung up, or gaunt, and ſtones hanging down looſe, are ſigns of ſickneſs, tenderneſs, foundering in the body, and unaptneſs for labour. His buttocks ſhould be round, plump, full, and in an even level with his body: the narrow, pin buttock, the hog or ſwine rump, and the falling and down let buttock, ſhews an injury in nature. The horſe that is deep in his girthing place, is generally of great ſtrength. His hinder thighs, or gaſtains, ſhould be well let down even to the middle joint, thick, brawny, full, and ſwelling, this being a great ſign of ſtrength and goodneſs; lank and ſlender thighs ſhew diſability and weakneſs. From the thigh bone to the hock it ſhould be pretty long, but ſhort from the hock to the paſtern. Obſerve the middle joint behind, and if it be nothing but ſkin and bone, veins and ſinews, rather a little bending than too ſtreight, it is perfect as it ſhould be; on the contrary, ſhould it have chaps or ſores on the inward bought, or bending, it is a ſallender.

SPAVINS.

SHOULD the joint be generally ſwelled all over, he muſt have had a blow or bruiſe; if in any particular part, as in the pot, or hollow part, or on the inſide, the vein full and proud, and the ſwelling ſoft, it is a blood ſpavin; you cannot there-

fore take too much care in examining the houghs of delicate horſes, for let the ſwelling appear ever ſo ſmall upon the flat of the lower part of the hough, within ſide, though the horſe may not limp, you ought to be apprehenſive that in time, and with but little labour, the ſprvin will increaſe on him.

THE fat ſpavin comes almoſt in the ſame place as the other, but is larger.

A THIRD kind is the ox ſpavin, and this is thought the worſt of the three. If the ſwelling be hard, it is a bone ſpavin; you ſhould examine a horſe thoroughly therefore before you buy him, and, in particular, ſee if all the joints of his legs move with equal freedom. Moſt horſes that have the bone ſpavin are very apt to ſtart when you go to take up their legs, and will hardly let you touch them with your hand; examine them well therefore with your eye, and ſee if, between the fetlock and the crown, the leg deſcends even and ſmooth; for if you ſee any protuberance between the fleſh and the ſkin, that looks like a ſort of knot, or kernel, you have found the defect.

A CURB.

IF you obſerve the ſwelling to be exactly before the knuckle, it is a curb, which is an accident that may happen in different manners; ſuch as a ſtrain

ſtrain in working, ſlipping his foot in a hole, or in marſhy ground, &c. out of which he pulls it with pain, and by that means wrenches his hough, without diſlocating any thing, and yet, without ſpeedy care, he may be lamed.

A RAT's TAIL.

THERE is alſo a defect which is more common in the hind than the fore legs, though the latter are not quite exempt from it, and it is called the Rat's Tail, and is thus known. When you ſee, from the hind part of the fetlock, up along the nerves, a kind of line or channel that ſeparates the hair to both ſides, this is a rat's tail; and in ſummer there appears a kind of ſmall dry ſcab along this channel; and in winter there iſſues out a humidity, like the water from the legs. A horſe may work notwithſtanding this diſorder, for it ſeldom lames him; it ſometimes occaſions a ſtiffneſs in the legs, and makes them trot like foxes, without bending their joints. The hind legs ſhould be lean, clean, flat, and ſinewy; for, if fat, they will not bear labour, if ſwelled, the greaſe is molten into them, if ſcabbed above the paſterns, it is the ſcratches, and if he hath chops under his paſterns, he hath what is generally called the Rains. If he has a good buttock, his tail cannot ſtand ill, but will be broad, high, flat, and couched a little inward.

A WALK

A WALK AND TROT IN HAND.

HAVING with care examined the horſe, let him be run in hand a gentle trot; by this you will ſoon perceive if he is lame or not. Make the man lead him by the end of the bridle, as in this caſe you cannot be deceived by the man's being too near him. The far fore leg, and near hind leg, or the near fore leg, and far hind leg, ſhould move and go forward at one and the ſame time; and in this motion, the nearer the horſe taketh his limbs from the ground, the opener, the evener, and the ſhorter is his pace.

FORGING.

IF hetakes up his feet ſlovenly, it ſhews ſtumbling or lameneſs; to tread narrow, or croſs, ſhews interfering, or failing; to ſtep uneven, ſhews wearineſs, and if he treads long, you may be apprehenſive he forges, by which I mean, that when he walks, or trots, he ſtrikes the toes of his hind feet againſt the corners of his ſhoes before, which occaſions a clattering noiſe as you ride; and this proceeds generally from the weakneſs of his fore legs, he not having ſtrength in them to raiſe them up ſufficiently quick to make way for the hind ones. A horſe of this kind is not near ſo ſerviceable as the horſe exempt from it, andthe dealers, to get rid of him, will make abundance of pretences: if he has been juſt ſhoed, they will ſay

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the farrier has put on him too long ſhoes; if his ſhoes are old, they will tell you he is juſt come off a long journey, and is much fatigued; you muſt not therefore be over credulous to any thing a jockey or dealer affirms, for what they ſay in this manner, is too often with intent to deceive; and it is very certain that a horſe who forges can never be ſure-footed, any more than one who has tottering or bow legs.

WALK AND TROT MOUNTED.

On his being mounted, ſee him walk. Obſerve his mouth, that he pulls fair, not too high, nor bearing down: then ſtand behind him, and ſee if he goes narrower before than behind, as every horſe that goes well on his legs goes in that manner. Take notice that he bruſhes not by going too cloſe; a certain ſign of his cutting, and tiring in travelling. Have nothing to do with that horſe who throws his legs confuſedly about, and croſſes them before: this you may obſerve by ſtanding exactly before or behind him, as he is going along. In his trot he ſhould point his fore legs well, without clambering, nor yet as if he were afraid; and that he throws well in his hind legs, which will enable him to ſupport his trot, and ſhoot his fore parts forwards.

A CANTER

A CANTER OR GALLOP.

In his canter, obſerve he does not fret, but goes cool in this pace; and in his gallop, he ſhould take his feet nimbly from the ground, and not raiſe them too high, but that he ſtretcheth out his fore legs, and follows nimbly with his hind ones, and that he cutteth not under his knee, (which is called the ſwift or ſpeedy cut) that he croſſes not, nor claps one foot on another, and ever leadeth with his far fore foot, and not with the near one. If he gallops round, and raiſes his fore feet, he may be ſaid to gallop ſtrongly, but not ſwiftly; and if he labour his feet confuſedly, and ſeems to gallop painfully, it ſhews ſome hidden lameneſs; for in all his paces, you ſhould particularly obſerve that his limbs are free, without the leaſt ſtiffneſs.

TOTTERING LEGS.

Now that he has been well exerciſed in thoſe different paces, it is your time to examine for an infirmity, not eaſily diſcovered, and that is what I call Tottering Legs: you cannot perceive it till after a horſe has galloped for ſome time, and then, by letting him reſt a little, you will ſee his legs tremble under him, which is the diſorder I mean: how handſome ſoever the legs of ſuch a horſe may be, he never can ſtand well on them; you are therefore not to mind what the jockey ſays when

when he talks of the beauty of the limbs, for if you oblige him to gallop the horſe, or fatigue him pretty much (which is commonly done in order to try the creature's bottom) you will in all likelihood diſcover this defect, unleſs you ſuffer the groom to gallop him to the ſtable door, and put him up in a moment, which he will certainly endeavour to do, if he is conſcious of it, while the maſter has another horſe ready to ſhew you, in order to take off your attention from what he is afraid you ſhould ſee.

THUS having, to the beſt of my judgment, gone through every requiſite obſervation relative to the purchaſe of a horſe, ſtudiouſly avoiding its being drawn into an unneceſſary length, yet at the ſame time being as careful to avoid an affected brevity: the gentlemen, to whom many of my obſervations are familiar, will pleaſe to obſerve, that I have endeavoured, as much as poſſible, to write for the information of the perſon intirely unacquainted with the qualifications which form a complete horſe; in the purchaſe of which, the perſon ſhould particularly conſider the end for which he buys, whether for running, hunting, travelling, draught, or burthen; and it is therefore almoſt unneceſſary to remind him, that the biggeſt and ſtrongeſt are fitteſt for ſtrong occaſions, burdens, draught, or double carriage, as the middle ſize is for hunting, pleaſure, gene-

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ral employments, and the leaſt for ſummer hackney. The laſt thing I ſhall take the freedom to obſerve to my reader is, that a very ſmall portion of this treatiſe has been taken from a late publication, deficient in many reſpects, though at the ſame time containing ſome trite obſervations, and that the bulk of it has been compiled from my own experience, aſſiſted by various authors on the ſubject, of which Monſieur Saunier is the principal. All I have therefore to obſerve is, that it was compiled at the requeſt of the publiſhers, as a ſuitable companion to a book of the ſame ſize, intitled, The Gentleman's Pocket Farriery, ſhewing how to uſe a horſe on a journey, and what remedies are proper for common accidents that may befal him on the road, which having been univerſally approved, and met with a very extenſive ſale, they are hopeful that a well drawn up aſſiſtant towards the purchaſe of a horſe, deſcribing the diſorders, &c. to which he is liable, might ſtand fair to be received with marks of the ſame public approbation.

THE END.

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